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We are seeking translators and editors for the above projects. Below each project are the jobs we're looking to fill. If you are interested, please e-mail Esthetiquestaff@gmail.com stating your interest, along with the # of the series you wish to work on.

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Old Projects' S.O.S

Ingenuo(cn)
Princess Diana(cn)
Catch Love (cn)
Kanon & Air (jp)

These projects need translators. We need the help, so if you can help us, please send an inquiry to Esthetiquestaff@gmail.com

PUZZLE+
パズルプラス
01
MAYAMI SUGANO
菅野マナミ

PUZZLE+ 01 パズルプラス

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THAT CONTAINS ALL THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD
A BOX
IT'S ABOUT...
...I HEARD A RUMOR.
"THERE'S NOTHING THE BOX CANNOT DO
IT CAN GRANT YOU ANY WISH IN THE WORLD."
SUCH A PROFOUND, MYSTERIOUS STORY
ALMOST ALL RUMORS ARE BASICALLY LIKE THIS
WHETHER THEY'RE TRUE OR NOT IS NOT IMPORTANT
AS LONG AS THE STORY IS INTERESTING, EVERYTHING IS FINE

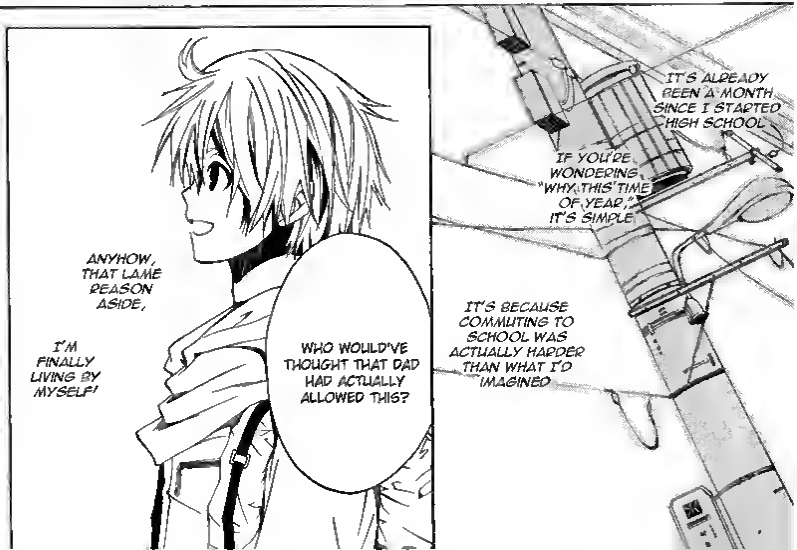
Cube.1 Black Box

BZZT
BZZT
clank
TCH,
THEY SHOWED UP. G IN.

SFX: BEEN
RI
202
RIA!
Open
step
KIRA.
step
step
step
urghhh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MUGETSU?

SHEESH.
I SAW RIA-CHAN RUNNING JUST NOW
SO IT'S IT AGAIN, I SUPPOSE.
"THAT PERSON" REALLY DID LEAVE US SOMETHING BOTHERSOME.

STARTING TODAY, I'LL BE LIVING ALONE


IT'S ALREADY BEEN A MONTH SINCE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
IF YOU'RE WONDERING "WHY, THIS TIME OF YEAR," IT'S SIMPLE.
IT'S BECAUSE COMMUTING TO SCHOOL WAS ACTUALLY HARDER THAN WHAT I'D IMAGINED.
ANYHOW, THAT LAME REASON ASIDE,
I'M FINALLY LIVING BY MYSELF!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT DAD HAD ACTUALLY ALLOWED THIS?

I HAVE A FEELING THAT
SOMETHING NEW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
HM?
OH RIGHT.
DAD DREW A MAP FOR ME
LET'S SEE...
WHAT'S THIS?
TAP
LEAPS
IT'S GETTING CLOSER...
I HAVE TO FIND IT QUICKLY
tap
tap
tap

ACTUALLY, WHAT'S WITH THESE CHAINS?
HOW DOES ONE OPEN A BOX LIKE THIS?
A BLACK BOX?
I DON'T REMEMBER PACKING THIS.
I FOUND IT!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'VE HEARD THE RUMOR ABOUT...
SO, A BLACK BOX

FWOOSH
TAP
.....
EH?

A GIRL?
A
...
CAME
FLYING DOWN FROM A TREE?!

pat
pat
...
SHE'S CUTE
IT'S GOOD THAT SHE'S CUTE, BUT

adjusts
.....

HM?
OH.
AH
?
...HER UNIFORM'S ALL TORN.
AND SHE HAS SCRATCHES ALL OVER HER.
IT'S EMBARRASSING, ISN'T IT?
I'M NOT GOOD WITH NEEDLES
bashful
THAT'S NOT IT! I MEAN, SEWING IS IMPORTANT, TOO, BUT... BUT, STILL...!
.....

*Onii-san is commonly used in Japan to refer to older brothers, or brotherly figures

Wink
HI, ONII-SAN!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME?
AHA!
SHE'S COVERING IT UP!
UM... UM...
THEN..!
si——lence
.....
.....
MY VENUS FLYTRAP TRICK DIDN'T WORK!
BUT, KIRA-SAN WAS PRAISING IT SO MUCH!
HOW EXACTLY WAS I SUPPOSED TO REACT IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION AGAIN?

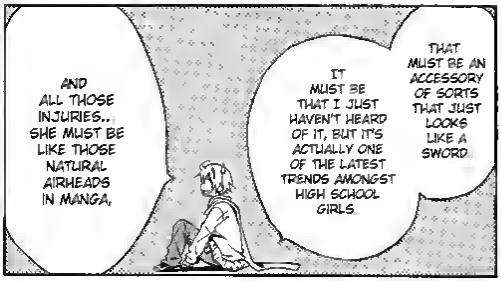
SEEMS LIKE SHE WANTS THIS BOX
EXCUSE ME,
THE BOX WON'T OPEN
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT?
I WAS JUST CURI-OUS
DESTROY IT.
??

CLA
ANGG
Yank
IT'S DANGEROUS TO KEEP IT!
THAT'S WHY, YOU HAVE TO...
gyeh -
AH.
?!

I MEAN UM...
Ah.
WHA...
A SWORD? A REAL SWORD?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOTHING.
smile
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN, "IT'S NOTHING"?!
HER SMILE IS SCARY!!
EH?!
AH, WAIT UP!
.....
Scrap
apx dash

WHA- WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
A SWORD?
WHY WOULD A GIRL HAVE A SWORD?!
ACTUALLY, WHY WOULD ANYONE WALK AROUND WITH SOMETHING LIKE A SWORD?
slump
huff huff
C-...
CALM DOWN
CALM DOWN, ME!
SFX: thump thump thump
deep breath
OK,
LET'S CALM DOWN AND THINK THIS OVER SLOWLY.

OF COURSE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
De——pressed

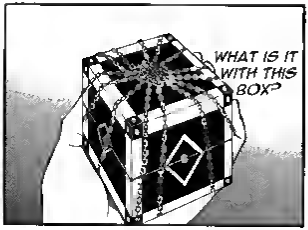

THAT MUST BE AN ACCESSORY OF SORTS THAT JUST LOOKS LIKE A SWORD.
IT MUST BE THAT I JUST HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ONE OF THE LATEST TRENDS AMONGST HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.
AND ALL THOSE INJURIES.. SHE MUST BE LIKE THOSE NATURAL AIRHEADS IN MANGA.

SHE PROBABLY TRIPS AND FALLS OVER NOTHING.
ha ha
ha
ha ha
WELL, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT PROPERLY, IT MUST BE REALLY PAINFUL. AH HA HA

.....?

"It's dangerous to keep it"
"Destroy it."

SOMEHOW, I DON'T WANT TO LET IT GO


WHAT IS IT WITH THIS BOX?

surprised
AH,
FOUND YOU!

SHEESH!

RUN!
AWW, AND I JUST FOUND YOU!

.....!

HEY! PLEAAAASE!
WAIT UP!
SFX: Run Run Run
I PROMISE I WON'T HURT YOU!
I JUST WANT THE BOX!
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
!
!
Wait up!
gulp
GAH!
It's a dead end?!

STOP!
W-
WAIT!
SFX: tap tap tap
terrified
shine
!
HOLD...
SHE'S NOT STOPPING?!
te, te, te,
SFX: bam bam
ドン ドン
I'M TELLING YOU, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING IN FACT, THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT ME. I'M JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL BOY.
HOLD ON!
DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?!
WHAT ?!
BEING MEDIOCRE IS MY FAULT?!
I'M.....
I'M SCARED !!!
HE'S DERANGED

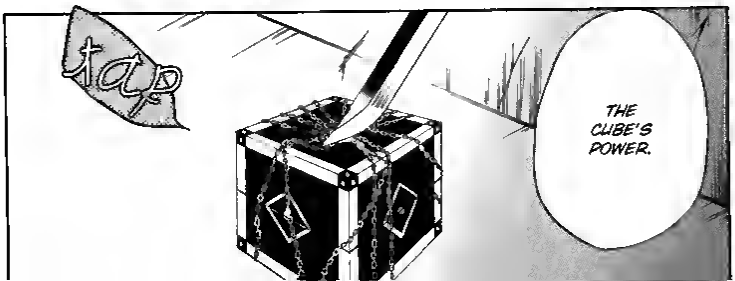
I SAID, WAIT
knock
FRANG

ドドド

THE CHAIN
CRUMBLES...
?!
!
fwoosh
ドズッ
spx bssh
EH...?
!...

DON'T TRY TO DO ANYTHING.
JUST LET GO OF THE CUBE.

WHAT WAS THAT
JUST NOW?
Break

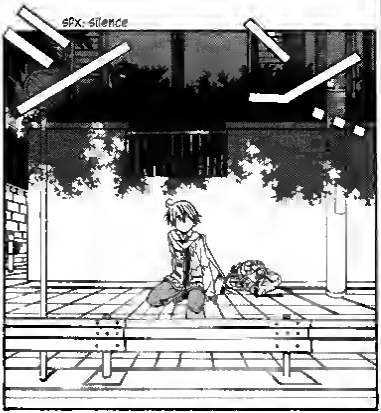

tap
THE CUBE'S POWER.

YOU WERE TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM ME
BUT YOU CAME TO A DEAD END, AND COULDN'T RUN ANYMORE
YOU CAN GET AWAY BY TEARING DOWN THE WALLS
?
THERE... THERE'S NO WAY SUCH A THING COULD HAPPEN.
THAT'S LIKE...
"LIKE"... WHAT?
DUD
?
.....
HUH?
YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THAT INTENSELY,
AND THUS, THE THOUGHT BECAME A REALITY.

WHAT YOU KNOW IS NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH.
sfx: stab
WHAT... ARE YOU?
whooshhhh...
?!
THE BOX— DISAPPEARED?
sfx: wobble
?

flop
WHAT'S GOING ON? I FEEL A BIT DIZZY...
SORRY.....
BUT ISN'T THAT...
JUST LIKE THE RUMOR?

JUST LIKE THE RUMOR ABOUT A BLACK BOX
step
UGH...
blinks
SFX HUH
EH...?
SFX SITS UP
I Feel a bit dazed
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
WHAT WAS I DOING?


SFX: Silence

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT GIRL...
Rises

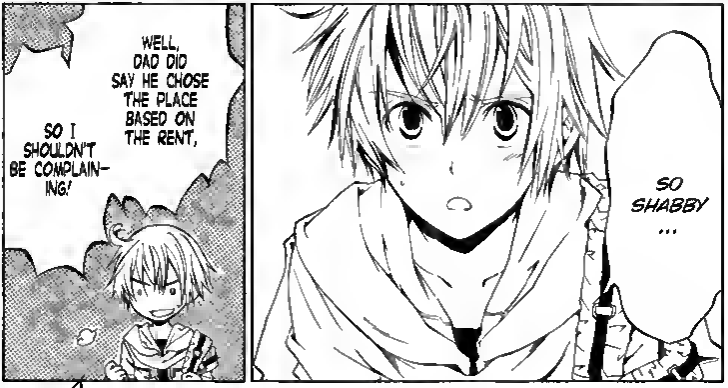
RUSTLE...
.....

A DREAM? YEAH, MUST BE.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT KIND OF THING COULD HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE
dazed
AND MY MEMORY'S KIND OF FUZZY...

MAYBE THAT WAS A DREAM.

UWAHH! IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?!
I HAVE TO GET TO THE APARTMENT!

.....


WELL, DAD DID SAY HE CHOSE THE PLACE BASED ON THE RENT,
SO I SHOULDN'T BE COMPLAIN-ING!
SO SHABBY ...

WAHH !!
EXCUSE ME FOR THE SHABBINESS

FUYOH RUI
OH, 'RUI' IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR 'TEAR' AND YOU PRONOUNCE IT 'RUI'.
THE OWNER-CUM-CARE-TAKER.
ROOM 103
OH, YOU'RE THE OWNER.
NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS SASANAMI MIO
HM
bow
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU FROM NOW ON.
YOUR LUGGAGE HAS ALREADY ARRIVED.
I'VE THROWN THEM INTO YOUR ROOM.
AND, YOUR ROOM IS THIS WAY. ROOM 201.
Follow Me
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW,
ASK SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME. THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
clank clank

Open
WHATEVER IT IS, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T ASK ME, OK?
IT'S TOO BOTHERSOME...
OK.
AH, RUI-SAN,
GOOD EVENING!
EH? WHAT?
YEAH...
?!

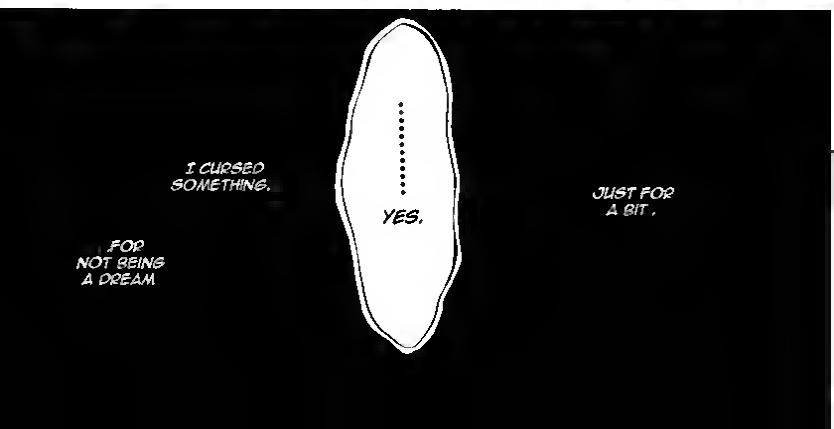
OH, RIGHT.
MY NAME IS SASANAMI MIO.
serious
RI,
THIS IS THE BOY WHO'S MOVING INTO ROOM 201. HIS NAME IS...
She called me this
god
THIS GIRL IS RIA.
SHE LIVES NEXT DOOR TO YOU.
JUST LIKE YOU, SHE'S LIVING BY HERSELF.
blank

HM?
?
.....?
HM?
?
HAH
!!
AAAHH
HHHHH
!!!
HM?
IT WASN'T A DREAM...
IT WAS
NOT A DREAM.

HAH
AH……
UH—
Nice……
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SO WE'LL BE NEIGHBOURS. I'M YUIGAKI RIA
AH HA HA
"Nice to meet you"?!
EH?! SO SHE'S PRETENDING THAT THE WHOLE THING NEVER HAPPENED?!
……
……OH
OK……
2 0 4
SLAM
WHY …?
PULL
MIO-KUN!
WOULD YOU PLEASE COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND?!
gyahh

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
UMM... BECAUSE
I'M LIVING ON MY OWN IN THIS APARTMENT STARTING TODAY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO ANSWER IT SO DUTIFULLY!
glance
SO IT REALLY WASN'T A DREAM.
stop
MIO-KUN.
slash
.....

WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER...
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT, OK?


I CURSED SOMETHING.
FOR NOT BEING A DREAM
.....
YES.
JUST FOR A BIT.

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 01

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: nanchakachan
Proofreader: Love
Editor: sushiisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

Special Thanks to Sylvie

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Cube.2 Ordinaries and Extraordinaries

201
...EVEN IF NOBODY WISHES FOR IT TO.
ROUND AND ROUND TIME TURNS.
chirp
.....
IT'S MORNING.
A CALM PEACEFUL MORNING. AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED YESTERDAY
WHAT TIME IS IT?
sleepy
grgh
thump
slam
E-... EIGHT O'CLOCK?!
ACK! I'M LATE!!

BAM
?
WOOSH
rush rush
Woah am
SFX thonk
GOOD MORNING
HUH ...?
.....?

Step
I'M MITSUKI FROM ROOM 101.
?
YOU ARE...?
AH,
I JUST MOVED IN YESTERDAY MY NAME'S SAGANAMI PLEASED TO MEET...
MITSUKI SUZUNA.
PLEASE REMEMBER ME.
T/N: A kunai is a type of ninja knife
UMM. SUZUNA-CHAN? WHAT... IS THIS?
NO, WAIT!
?
IT'S A KUNAI*
BECAUSE,
SUZUNA IS CURRENTLY A SHINOBI*
T/N: Shinobi = ninja

PARDON ME ?
I SPECIALIZE IN ASSASSINATION.
I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE, THOUGH.
IT'S NOT YOUR SPECIALTY, THEN!!
NO, HOLD ON. WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME THAT YOU'RE AFTER, HUH?!
UM, YOU WERE LOUD, SO, I JUST INSTINCTIVELY... I'M SORRY
"SO" SHE SAYS?
BUT I WAS AIMING TO MISS. SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
THIS KUNAI... IT'S REAL, ISN'T IT?
YOU CAN COUNT ON MY SKILLS.
THEN...
THE WALLS HERE DON'T INSULATE VOICES AND SOUNDS TOO WELL SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
OK.
This is the second floor...
...WHAT'S WITH THIS APARTMENT?
THERE'S THAT KIA-CHAN
AM I GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT? STAYING HERE I MEAN...
Why did I even think that I'd get a peaceful morning?

"So we'll be neighbors."
202
clank
HM?
Ah.
OOPS, SCHOOL!
run run run

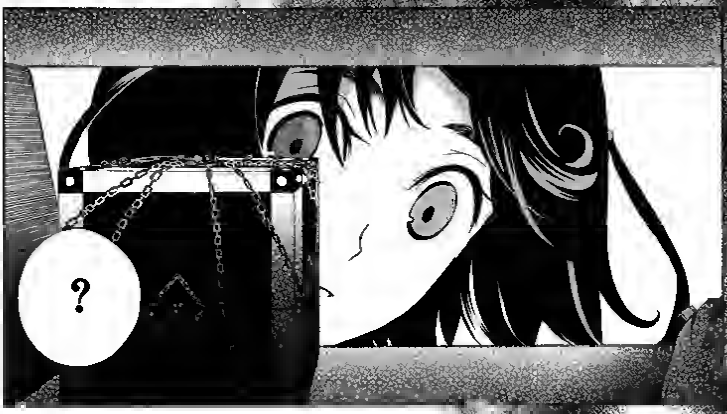
SHE LEFT THROUGH THE WINDOW, AGAIN.
flap flap
From the second floor...
RIA-CHAN?
ANYHOW,
SHE'S RATHER EARLY, THIS TIME.
"don't tell anyone about it, OK?"
SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE DIDN'T WANT ME TO PRY INTO IT.
RIA-CHAN...
WHAT IS SHE?
AND THAT BLACK BOX, TOO...

UMM... SASANAMI-KUN?
HMM...
EXCUSE ME
Ah.
MEBUKI-CHAN, GOOD MORNING.
Good morning!
THE FIRST PERIOD. IN ANOTHER ROOM...
EH?
HAS HOMEROOM FINISHED?
No one's left.
IT SEEMS SO...
I WAS SPACING OUT, TOO BY THE TIME I REALIZED IT, EVERYONE HAD ALREADY GONE.
Yanagi Mebuki-san, classmate.

rattle
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!
HMM... THE SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM IS...
WOOSH
bl——ank
ARE SOMEWHAT... SLOW TEMPO, KIND OF
HER TONE AND ATMOSPHERE...
?
BUT, AT TIMES LIKE THIS (APPARENTLY I GOT LEFT OUT BY THE REST OF THE CLASS),
SHE'D COME UP AND TALK TO YOU SHE'S A KIND GIRL
Ding
Dong
Ah!
Mm
WAH!
THE LESSON HAS STARTED!
drant

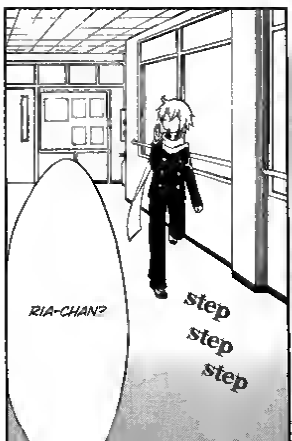
DROP
.....?!
...OW.
IT HURTS!!
THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN ILLUSION
shudder
?!
SASANAMI-KUN? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
You dropped your textbook.
EH? AH, NOTHING
whoosh
flustered
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH...! I SUDDENLY HAVE THIS TERRIBLE HEADACHE!!
WOOBLE
!

THANKS, MEBUKI-CHAN!
nod nod
YEAH, I'M OK
BUT I'LL GO TO THE INFIRMARY COULD YOU TELL THE TEACHER FOR ME?
skip
TAP TAP TAP...
AH, I FORGOT MY PENCIL CASE
clank
HMM IN THE DESK...
.....


?

WHAT COULD THIS BE...?

RIA-CHAN... WHERE'D SHE GO?


RIA-CHAN?
step
step
step

Clank
HM?
?!
LAND
RI— RIA-CHAN?!
Eeek

HEY,
WHE—
WHERE DID SHE FLY IN FROM?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
...IT'S...
I MIGHT BE PLAIN, BUT... WE JUST MET YESTERDAY.
IT CAN'T BE THAT YOU ALREADY... I AM THAT PLAIN?
AH,
DOWN
YOU'RE MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR!
This MOPPier
MY NAME'S SASANAMI MIO...

WHY...?
I'M A STUDENT HERE
EH?
HAH!
WHY... WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

I— I'M NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL NOW SO IT'S OK!
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RIA-CHAN? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
URGH
!
?
.....?
THEN WHY IS SHE WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM?

HM.. HMM, THIS SWORD WAS..
WHAT? SOMETHING WRONG?
You're staring at your sword
RIA-CHA—
OOPS. WOAH!!
flinch
IT'S A SPECIAL SWORD!
.. MADE BY MUGETSU-SAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING THE CUBE.
IT CAN DETECT THE GENERAL AREA OF WHERE THE CUBE WILL APPEAR.
I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE BOX?
?
UH-HUH. YES. OF COURSE.
THAT'S GREAT ...
Who is Mugetsu-san?
Can one really make something like that?
Isn't he!

THE BOX WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR
I THOUGHT THE BOX VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE YESTERDAY?
EH? HOLD ON
IT WON'T VANISH...
"Of course"?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU DESTROY IT, THE BOX WILL ALWAYS REAPPEAR.
WHY...
YOU KNOW...
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT DOESN'T REAPPEAR FOR A WHOLE MONTH,
BUT THERE ARE ALSO TIMES WHEN IT REAPPEARS WITHIN THE SAME DAY.
WHY?
WHERE THE SUPPOSEDLY DESTROYED BOX WILL REAPPEAR NEXT IS TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE
It's such an occult...

...WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU THAT HAS TO DESTROY THE BOX?
ALL THOSE INJURIES... YOU GOT THEM FROM CHASING AFTER THE BOX, RIGHT?
WHY...
BECAUSE ONLY I CAN DO IT.

……?
grin
MIO-KUN!
RIA-CHA-…?
!
IT'S NEARBY
DON'T SKIP YOUR LESSONS, OK?
SEE YOU LATER. BYE BYE
AH.

...I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING
STEP
STEP
STEP
BUT,
STEP
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE PROBABLY,
...FELT IT SINCE WE FIRST MET, YESTERDAY.
THIS UNEASINESS
I JUST HAVE A FEELING...

MAYBE THAT'S WHY, IT SEEMS SO FAKE
YET SHE SMILES SUCH A GENUINE, UNMATCHED SMILE...
IT FELT OUT OF PLACE. SHE WEARS THOSE SHABBY CLOTHES, AND IS COVERED IN CUTS,
"I can't ignore her,"
THAT WAS WHAT I THOUGHT
WHAT WOULD HER TRUE SMILE LOOK LIKE?
IS IT THIS WAY ...?
BANG
?!
WOAH, WHAT'S ALL THIS?!
Everything's broken
RIA-CHAN?

?!
perks up
BOX ...?!
!
MEBUKI-CHAN?!
!
SASANAMI-KUN?!
WAH!
HELP ME, SASANAMI-KUN!
MEBUKI-CHAN?
EH !
THAT PERSON IS PICKING ON ME...
.....?
ME— MEBUKI-CHAN, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL
spx bump

SHE SHE'S TALKING TOO FAST!
I don't get what she's saying
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
HEY, IN WHAT WAYS DID I CHANGE? DID YOU KNOW THAT I'VE...
DID I FINALLY CHANGE?
I'M GLAD! HEY HOW AM I DIFFERENT FROM USUAL?
REALLY?
!
I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME A MORE RELIABLE PERSON.
I WAS ALWAYS SLOW AND EVERYONE WOULD ALWAYS LEAVE ME BEHIND.
!
I HATED THE "OLD" ME.
COULD IT BE THAT...
MERUKI-CHAN'S STRANGE BEHAVIOUR
AND THESE BROKEN WALLS
ARE ALL CAUSED BY THE BOX?
SASANAMI -KUN, DID YOU KNOW?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? USUALLY YOU'RE MORE...
!
THERE ARE ONLY...
THREE CHAINS LEFT

I KEPT WISHING...
SO GOD MUST HAVE GIVEN THIS TO ME...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
MEBUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
PLEASE GIVE ME THE BOX YOU'RE BEING...
I SEE. SO SASANAMI-KUN THINKS SO, TOO
MEBUKI-CHAN...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
?!
I WILL NOT GIVE THIS AWAY!
IT IS MINE!
IT BELONGS TO ME!

MERUKI -CHAN
MIO-KUN,
IT'S PROBABLY USELESS TRYING TO CONVINCE HER NOW
RIA-CHAN?
...YOU...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO SNATCH THIS AWAY FROM ME?!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I DIDN'T WANT TO LET GO OF THE BOX, EITHER
BUT...
...YOU...
YOU'RE... DISGUSTING.

.....?
I TOLD YOU THAT "ONLY I CAN DO IT", JUST NOW, RIGHT?
EH...?
THEY DON'T WANT TO HAND IT OVER
THAT'S WHY THE "OWNER" OF THE CUBE ALWAYS RUNS FROM ME.
SO THAT'S WHY MEGUKI-CHAN IS DOING THAT RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE CUBE ALWAYS COMES TO ME.
WHY DOES THE BOX COME TO YOU?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DESTROY IT, IT WILL ALWAYS REAPPEAR SOMEWHERE NEAR ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY.
...I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHY.
?
BUT, STILL...
I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN DESTROY IT BEFORE ALL SEVEN CHAINS ARE BROKEN.
THAT'S WHY, ONLY I CAN DO IT.
BEFORE THE CHAINS ARE BROKEN?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY ALL BREAK?
.....
SHUT UP!!
MEBUKI -CHAN
I WON'T GIVE IT TO ANYONE!

THIS BOX IS MINE. I WON'T GIVE IT TO ANYONE!
DON'T COME NEAR ME DON'T COME OVER HERE!
GO AWAY!!
MEBUKI-CHAN, YOU HAVE TO STOP IT
bang
NO!!
?!
BANG
Ouch!

slide
snap
crumble
AH.
SFX: grip

SWISH
gasp
!
pshh
spx. aaa

.....
clack
TCH.
!
wobble...
UGHH.
SFx: Explode
bzzzt
FLOP.....
Woosh...
MIO-KUN! ARE YOU OK?
WHAT HAPPENED TO MEBUKI-CHAN?

SHE'S OK.
SHE WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED WHEN SHE WAKES UP
MERUKI -CHAN
EH? BUT...
IT'S BLURRY, BUT I REMEMBERED ABOUT YOU FROM YESTERDAY.
OH...
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU ONLY USED YOUR POWER ONCE
IF YOU DIDN'T SEE ME AGAIN AT THE APARTMENT,
YOU MIGHT HAVE JUST DISMISSED IT AS A DREAM.
YEAH.
Maybe you're right.

AH,
WAAHH,
THE LESSON'S GOING TO END!
Ring Ring!
WE CAN'T STAY HERE.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE
MIO-KUN,
DON'T BE MISERABLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH MEBUKI-CHAN, OK?
EH?
EVERYONE HAS THINGS THAT THEY DON'T LIKE ABOUT THEMSELVES, AND IDEALS THAT THEY WISH THEY COULD ACHIEVE
IN MEBUKI-CHAN'S CASE, HER WISHES JUST BECAME STRONGER BECAUSE OF THE BOX
YOU MEAN?
THE CUBE'S INFLUENCE ON ITS OWNER GROWS LARGER AND LARGER AS THE OWNER USES HIS OR HER POWER

IT COULD START WITH A SMALL WISH,
BUT IF YOU REALISE THAT IT CAN COME TRUE, YOU MIGHT USE MORE OF YOUR POWER.
AND YOU MIGHT BECOME LIKE MEBUKI-CHAN JUST NOW
YOUR MIND WILL BE FULL OF THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CUBE.
YOU'LL BE SO SCARED OF LOSING THE BOX THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO LET IT GO.
SCARY...
A BLACK BOX THAT GRANTS YOUR WISH..
CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE THE RUMORS, BUT...
WELL NOW THAT I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE THE STORY
YOU USE MORE AND MORE POWER,
THE CUBE WILL START NESTLING IN YOUR HEART.
WHAT'S WRONG, RIA-CHAN?
?
WHY RIA-CHAN?
THOUGH, I STILL DON'T GET IT.

I'M SORRY, MIO-KUN...
FOR LETTING YOU GET HURT...
IT MUST BE PAINFUL...
EH?
AH, IT'S OK. DON'T WORRY...
YOU HAVE MORE INJURIES THAN ME, RIA-CHAN...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
THE CUBE...
...IT WAS BORN...
...PARTLY BECAUSE OF ME...
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?
falls
RIA -CHAN?

WHAT'S WRO—
THIS WHOLE THING...
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, MIO-KUN.
YET YOU'RE THE ONE INJURED
"Has nothing to do with me..."
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT RIA-CHAN
rumble
.....?
...I'M HUNGRY ...
...I CAN'T STAND ANYMORE ...
wobble wobble
RIA -CHAN?
And I'M SLEEPY...
HUHP
H— HEY..
GOOD NIGHT..
sleeps
D— DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 02

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: nanchakachan
Proofreader: Love
Editor: sushyisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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Cube.3 Nightmare

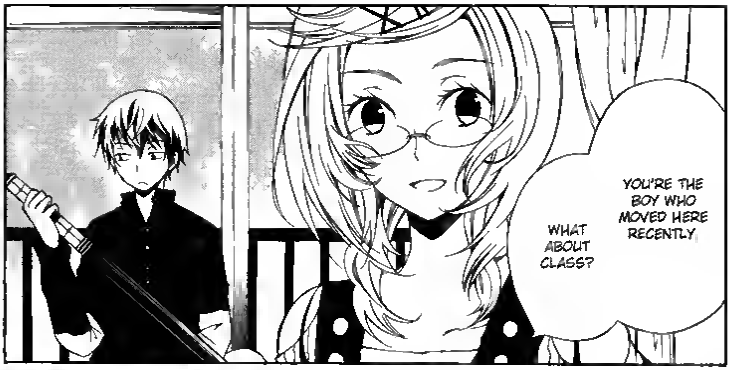
IT'S THAT DREAM AGAIN...
THAT DREAM FROM TWO YEARS AGO
I HAVE TO WAKE UP QUICKLY
QUICKLY...

THIS... IS NORMAL?
SO, WELL... THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS
SHE BROUGHT IT UPON HERSELF
SHE SAYS THAT SHE'S FINE, AND SHE DOESN'T EAT PROPERLY.
SHE HASN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL EITHER.
That kid seems like she does lie down and rest.
DUSH
RIA-CHAN?

HEY, WAKE UP!
RIA-CHAN!
WHAT... WHAT SHOULD I DO? HER FACE LOOKS KIND OF PALE.
SHE'S REALLY SLEEPING...
Zzz
RI—
Hah!
AN—
I'LL TAKE HER...
ANYWAY, MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT WE LEAVE THIS PLACE ...
HOW?
stop.
.....
WAKE...

PLEASE! WAKE UP!!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR ENERGY
YOU CAN'T WAKE HER UP LIKE THAT.
!
OH, HOW UNUSUAL.
SHE'S SLEEPING IN A CROWDED PLACE LIKE THIS.
OH, YOU ARE...
EH?
...AH,

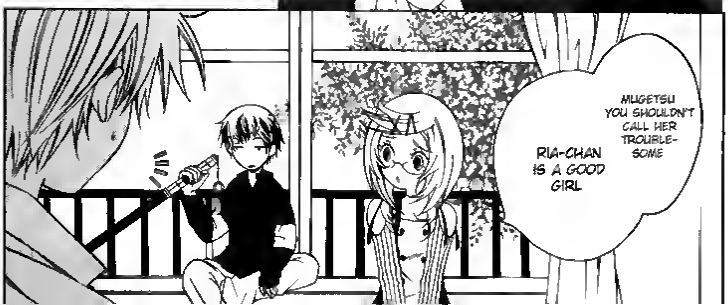
WE'RE SOMETHING LIKE HER GUARDIANS
?
stare
SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE
OH, IT'S OK. UM .. WHO ARE YOU?
WAIT UP, PLEASE. I'M COMING!
AH,
GUARDIANS?
202


YOU'RE THE BOY WHO MOVED HERE RECENTLY
WHAT ABOUT CLASS?

SO YOU'VE FALLEN FOR THIS TROUBLE-SOME ONE
EH?
blush
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE.

BLANK
UM CLASS IS
NOT REALLY ALL RIGHT, BUT..

Smirk
I SEE
YES?


MUGETSU YOU SHOULDN'T CALL HER TROUBLE-SOME
RIA-CHAN IS A GOOD GIRL

EH?
MUGETSU?
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE
"Muga'tsu-gan" must have been "creating the Gate"
!
IS MUGETSU... THE PERSON WHO CREATED THE SWORD?
Oh dear
...I SEE
SO RIA HAS TOLD YOU THAT MUCH
.....
UM...
THEY DID SAY THAT THEY'RE HER GUARDIANS
THEY SEEM TO KNOW SOMETHING
WHAT IS RIA-CHAN?
WHAT ARE YOU... AND WHAT IS THE BOX?

EH? WELL...
I FOUND THE BOX IN MY BAG YESTERDAY, THEN RIA-CHAN...
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
...RIGHT.
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BOX, TOO.

UM... MAY I ASK WHO YOU ARE?
AND SHE DIDN'T TELL US ABOUT IT. SHEESH

AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE HAVEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES.

MY NAME IS KIRA
I'M STAYING IN ROOM 203
And so is Nuigebu

!
SO YOU'VE POSSESSED THE BOX ONCE.
RIA'S MISSED AGAIN.

AND
I'M ALSO RIA-CHAN'S FATHER'S ASSISTANT—
MUFFLE
.....?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF THAT, RIGHT? TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT.
?
RIA-CHAN'S FATHER?
KIRA!!
YUIP.
HE'S THE ONE WHO CREATED THE BOX.
HIS NAME IS PROFESSOR YUIGAKI.

WHAT?
HE CREATED IT?
RIA-CHAN'S FATHER DID?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
giggle
.....
ARE YOU HIS ASSISTANT AS WELL?
TCH
.....
THE PROFESSOR IS NOT ALIVE ANYMORE
HE PASSED AWAY,
LEAVING THE BOX BEHIND.

THE BOX DOES EXIST
WHY DID HE MAKE... SOMETHING LIKE THE BOX?
.....
HE CREATED IT. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT...
I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
HUH?
GOD KNOWS.
EVEN IF YOU ASK WE HAVE NO IDEA
IT'S TRUE THAT HE CREATED THE "BOX",
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF CREATING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE BOX WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED FOR—
ANYWAY,
RIA WAS CARELESS THIS TIME.
AN OUTSIDER LIKE YOU HAS FOUND OUT TOO MUCH.

"WE DON'T KNOW," "WE HAD NO INTENTION OF CREATING IT"...
I DON'T CARE.
THAT MAKES RIA-CHAN AN OUTSIDER, TOO!"
ANNOYED
AN OUT-SIDER.
WELL, I AM AN OUTSIDER, BUT THAT MAKES RIA-CHAN...
WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON?
YOU WERE BOTH INVOLVED IN CREATING THE BOX.
WHY DOES RIA-CHAN HAVE TO BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT?
THAT'S PATHETIC!
.....
P/THETIC... I SEE...

I DON'T THINK RIA WANTS YOUR SYMPATHY.
WHAT THE...
ぶしゅ
Tch
WE ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THE BOX
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
IT'S NECESSARY FOR US TO STAY NEAR RIA
BECAUSE THE BOX ONLY APPEARS NEAR TO HER
BUT, STILL!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DESTROY IT, DOES SHE?!
RIA-CHAN SAID THE SAME THING TO US
"IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, MIO-KUN"

THE EXACT SAME WORDS MUGETSU JUST SAID TO YOU.
TWO YEARS AGO
"It has nothing to do with you."
...EH?
BUT, WHY?
?
202
CLACK
WHAT WAS THAT?

...PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SO PLEASE
SITS
HM?
MY ROOM?
RIA-CHAN, ARE YOU AWAKE?
!
BLANK
...MIO-KUN?
BLINK
...HM?

...HM?
turn
IT WON'T OPEN? WHAT'S GOING ON?
It doesn't budge at all.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO RELAXED...?
POP
THE WINDOW WON'T OPEN, EITHER
HOW STRANGE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE BLOCKING THE CORRIDOR.
YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THIS MORNING

I'M HUNGRY.
rumble
I'M BACK
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
UM... ACTUALLY...
SUZUNA-CHAN, WELCOME BACK.
SUZUNA-CHAN LIKES COSPLAYING.
HUH?
YOU SAID YOU WERE A NINJA THIS MORNING...!
And now a phantom thief? That dress?
WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP?
SUZUNA IS NOW PHANTOM THIEF.
SHE CAN OPEN ANY LOCK.
CONFIDENT
LEAVE IT TO ME.
SHE FLE-?!
EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED WHEN SHE DRESSED UP AS A WITCH AND FLEW OFF THE ROOF ON A BROOMSTICK
SHE REALLY SURPRISED ME
.....
Smile
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "FELL OFF THE ROOF".
And she went to the hospital afterward

Clack
Clack
HOW IS IT?
clack
clack
CLACK
clack
CLACK
clack
clack
clack
clack
SUZUNA-CHAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
!
THERE'S NO LOCK I CAN'T OPEN DRESSED UP LIKE THIS!
YOU HATE LOSING?
whisper
HOW DARE..
Ching!
What are they doing—
Oh my
IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A PHANTOM THIEF
IT WON'T OPEN FROM THE INSIDE TO BEGIN WITH
THAT'S RUDE!
APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR IMPOLITE-NESS THIS INSTANT!!
SLAP
SLAP
OUCH.
DOES THAT MEAN A PHANTOM THIEF IS NO GOOD?
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE
should I get changed?
MUGETSU?
.....

RIA,
YES?
CAN YOU TEAR THIS DOOR DOWN?
EH?!
YES, BUT, IS IT OK?
?
YEAH, JUST TEAR IT DOWN.
HEY, WAIT! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!
I HOPE RUI-SAN DOESN'T GET ANGRY...
HE—
SFX: SLAM
ドカッ!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT
!?
She was sleeping
……?

...RIA-CHAN?
.....?
.....
202
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SCRATCH
PLOP

...WHAT'S WRONG?

click
WHA- WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW?
AH,
?!
RIA-CHAN?
?
Pinch
...IT'S OPEN.

WHAT HAPPENED? RIA-CHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE BOX?!
WHOOSH...
.....
.....
..RIA-CHAN?

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE
LONG FACE
HEY, YOU GUYS!
Rui-san
WHAT WAS THAT BANG JUST NOW?!
I WONDER WHAT THE EXPRESSION SHE WORE ON HER FACE JUST NOW WAS...
SO, IF WHAT THEY SAID WAS TRUE,
THAT MEANS RIA-CHAN IS NOT BEING COERCED INTO DESTROYING THE BOX.
BUT THEN, WHY WOULD SHE...?
IS IT BECAUSE HER FATHER WAS THE ONE WHO CREATED THE BOX? CAN'T BE
.....

!
HM?
HM? WHAT COULD SHE BE DOING?
search
search
search
search
RIA-CHAN?
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
EH? MIO-KUN
RI—
Found it!
I DROPPED A 500 YEN COIN.
THANK GOD I FOUND IT.
IT WAS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YUP!
I'M SORRY ABOUT MAKING YOU LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY TODAY
NAH, I LEFT ON MY OWN...
AH,
BUT NOW I HAVE TO TAKE A BATH AGAIN...
and I just took a bath too
AH HA HA
.....
.....
UM... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
HM?
ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

...EH?
I HEARD THAT HE MADE THE BOX.
IS THAT TRUE?
...I DON'T KNOW.
?
I DON'T KNOW.
I'VE NEVER MET HIM.

BUT, THE BOX DOESN'T STOP REAPPEARING
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THEN
203
ARE YOU BLAMING YOURSELF?
YOU'RE THE ONE BLAMING YOURSELF, MUGETSU.
.....
I'LL DESTROY IT, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
WE'LL PUT AN END TO THIS.
..TO EVERYTHING ABOUT IT.
KIRA, WHY DID YOU TELL HIM...
..ABOUT THAT PERSON?
YOU MEAN, TO MIO-KUN?

MUGETSU,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SAVE RIA-CHAN
.....
KIRA, YOU...!
BUT I WASN'T TELLING HIM A LIE
giggle
SEEMS LIKE IT HAS BECOME A HABIT FOR YOU TO SAY "THAT FERSON"
DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC!
grab
RIA-CHAN? WAIT UP!
step step step
...I KNOW.

WAS IT... SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED?
UM...
I DON'T KNOW
.....
THE CUBE WAS CREATED FOR ME,
?
BUT I THREW IT AWAY.
EH? WHAT ARE YOU...
SO IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT THAT EVERYONE... TWO YEARS AGO...
whoosh
SLAM
?!

STOP IT, HIIRO.
WHY, GUREN?
THAT WAS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO SHOW OFF JUST NOW
HUH?
Are you OK?
A bag?
RUBBISH.
LOOKS FUN TO ME.

RUSTLE
YOU! GET AWAY FROM HER!
AND GIVE ME MY BAG BACK!
EH?
?!
RIA-SAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHO...
HUH? I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THAT.
WHO ARE YOU, HUH?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO THREW IT
THEY'RE FROM OUR APARTMENT. ROOM 102
IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY ROUND.
GUREN-KUN
AND HIIRO-KUN
...ARE THEY?

HIIRO, REMEMBER WHAT SUZUNA SAID EARLIER
HM? OH, THE GUY WHO JUST MOVED IN.
Eh?
DON'T MISTAKE ME FOR HIM.
THEY ARE TWINS
Wahh
SO YOU'RE THE GUY.
NI—
NICE TO MEET YOU .?
scrutinise
HM?
AH, YES, YES, NICE TO MEET YOU.
VERY DIPLOMATIC.
MUMBLE
.....

PUZZLE

VOL CHAPTER 03

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: nanchakachan
Proofreader: Love
Editor: sushiisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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Cube.4 Friend

knock
knock
CHIRP...
MMM?
MIO-KUUUN
HMM, I WONDER IF HE'S STILL ASLEEP
because it's a holiday today
?
JUST KEEP BANGING AND HE'LL WAKE UP
BANG BANG
?!
YOU'RE TROUBLING THE NEIGHBOUR-HOOD
open
COMIN'...
HM? THIS VOICE...
WAH!
MORNING... MIO-KUN.
MAY WE HAVE A MOMENT?
YO.

YES...?
AN HOUR AGO
WHAT IS THIS?
clatter
clatter

WELL,
YOU MIGHT GET LOST, RIA-CHAN?
I-
I'M NOT A CHILD! I CAN GO BY MYSELF.
SEEMS LIKE A MAP.
...A MAP?
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE RIA-CHAN TO THE PLACE ON THE MAP.
EH?
.....
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T... WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

I DON'T MIND AT ALL I'M FREE TODAY ANYWAY.
BUT...
THANK YOU, MIO-KUN ♡
HEY, MIO-KUN, DO YOU MIND?
?!
Tch
.....
WHAT WAS HER NAME... KIRA-SAN?
SHE MERELY SAID, "YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU GET THERE".
That's obviously true, but...
.....
rumble
rumble
rumble
SO YEAH... WHAT COULD THIS PLACE BE?

HAH
YES?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
UMM...
RIA-CHAN?
rumble
...MIO-KUN, I THINK IT'S OK.
I... CAN GO BY MYSELF.
rumble
UMM.. I PREFER GOING ALONE.
?

GOT DUMPED, EH?
EH? YOU'RE FROM YESTERDAY
WHAT'S UP, YOU TWO?
Qvin

...WHAT IS THIS?
HM?
...A BOX?
AND?

I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU THE QUESTION, YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE RIA-SAN IS HERE.
YOU'RE JUST AN EXTRA

IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND
GUREN-KUN, IS HIIRO-KUN NOT COMING WITH YOU?
EH?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, AS WELL?
HM?

IS THAT... THE SWORD?

YANK
EEK?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SWORD?
HUH?
?
Ugh
?
LET'S GO
EH? HE DIDN'T FIND OUT?
OH,
SO DOES THIS MEAN THAT I CAN COME WITH HER?
drag
drag

Rustle
A PARK?
MAYBE HERE...
WHAT? WHAT A BORING PLACE
SO WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PLACE?
Rustle
OH WELL. LET'S JUST SPLIT UP AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANYTHING HERE.
HMM...
I WONDER, TOO
IT CAN'T BE THAT THEY WANT US TO PLAY AT THIS PARK, RIGHT?
It can't be right?
?

WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE... AM I HEADING TO?
NO,
rustle rustle
NOT ME, BUT THIS

RIA-CHAN?
RI—
rustle
rustle

MIO-KUN?
Hah-
AH...
W—
WAHHH, DON'T STAND UP!
HM?
You shouldn't go climbing in skirts
AH, WHY DON'T YOU COME UP HERE, THEN?
EH?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HERE, RIA-CHAN?
Maybe there's another place rather than this park.
NOPE.
HMM...
BUT, YEAH, I WONDER WHY KIRA-SAN WANTS US TO COME HERE
EH?
I TRY NOT TO BE TOO FAR FROM THE APARTMENT
I KNOW ALL THE SHORTCUTS AROUND THE APARTMENT.
SO, THAT'S WHY I AM AFRAID TO GO TO A PLACE THAT I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH
THAT'S PROBABLY THE FASTEST WAY TO DESTROY THE CUBE

BECAUSE, SINCE I MOVED TO THAT APARTMENT TWO YEARS AGO...
ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS CHASING AFTER THE CUBE BY MYSELF.
BECAUSE... THAT WAS ALL I'VE BEEN DOING, SO...
HAH...
OH,
.....
S—
SORRY... FOR TELLING YOU SUCH A WEIRD STORY...
P-PLEASE DON'T MIND ME,
EH?
AH, IT'S FINE.
OK?!
.....
"I prefer going alone."

"Two years ago, too..."
"It's all my fault that everyone..."
IT FEELS LIKE...
...SHE'S TRYING TO DISTANCE HERSELF FROM OTHERS.
WHAT HAPPENED...TWO YEARS AGO?
RUSTLE!

.....
?
I THINK THEY WANT TO YOU TAKE A BREAK
Maybe,
I GUESS THEY WANT YOU TO PLAY IN THE PARK
I can't think of any other reason they sent you here
"You'll find out when you get there. ♡"
MEANING?

A. BREAK?
?
YOU'LL GET WORN OUT IF ALL YOU DO IS THINK ABOUT THE BOX, RIGHT?
YOU'RE WRONG.
I'M...
HM?
OH, NOTHING SHALL WE CLIMB DOWN?
BUT...
HOW LONG DOES DIA-CHAN HAVE TO CONTINUE DESTROYING THE BOX?
HOW WILL THIS END?

I'M TURNING EIGHTEEN THIS YEAR, ACTUALLY
EH, I SEE.
EIGHTEEN?!

MIO-KUN, SHALL WE GO HOME?
Already?
EH?

THOUGH, YOU CAN'T REALLY PLAY IN THE PARK AT YOUR AGE, I GUESS
OF ALL PLACES, WHY A PARK? I REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM
EXACTLY THEY KEEP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD.

.....
Ah,
I MEAN, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE OLDER THAN ME

..EH?

I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS OLDER THAN ME
THEN, IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU WANT TO GO?
?
SINCE WE ALREADY CAME ALL THIS WAY, IT'S A WASTE TO JUST HEAD STRAIGHT HOME

WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?
?
WAHH!!
WHAT, ARE YOU FLIRTING WITH HER, HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, EH?
HIIRO... YOU'RE ACTUALLY A NICE PERSON.
I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT FOR SEARCHING SERIOUSLY...
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS DOING? SHEESH YOU SAID WE'D SPLIT THE WORK.
HIIRO!
IT— IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
WELL, I MEAN, UMM... AS A FRIEND!
I FORGOT THAT HE WAS HERE!
.....
WHAT'S THAT?

A FRIEND
BA-THUMP
THERE'S A CUBE NEARBY?
I DIDN'T NOTICE IT EARLIER

I DON'T GET WHY WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
I really don't get it.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO TAG ALONG.
EH?
RIA-CHAN?
HUH?
Ho...
.....

SO THAT'S WHY THE BOX LED ME HERE
IT'S AS IF IT WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU
OH, NOW I GET IT
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE
.....
YOU USED THE CUBE
GUREN-KUN?

WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT THIS UNFATHOMABLE BOX
THERE'RE ONLY...
FOUR MORE CHAINS LEFT.
clench...
EVEN IF I TRY TO CONVINCE HIM...
whoosh
GUREN-KUN, GIVE ME THE BOX.

SFX: ZSH
EH? IT'S HIM
AH, RIA-CHAN?!
SFX: step step step
GUREN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING
.....

SO, HIIRO...
YOU'RE HERE TOO
?!

whoosh...
TALK TO YOU LATER, RIA-SAN
GUREN-KUN! THAT BOX IS .
Stops
WE HAVE AN INTRUDER
SEX, GRAD
Wa-
WAIT!
!
THE BOX?!

?!
WAIT UP!
YOU'RE NOT A VERY AGREEABLE PERSON, ARE YOU?

?!
sfx: pull
whoosh
!

HE...
HE DISAP-PEARED?
Shhh...
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
WELL, HE PROBABLY JUST WENT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.
WHAT?
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY IS GUREN...?
!

.....
WHY DIDN'T I...
REALIZE IT EARLIER?
IF I DON'T HURRY UP AND DESTROY THE BOX, GUREN-KUN WILL BE...
Hah
RIA-CHAN?

.....
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OK?
RIA-CHAN?
I'm fine!
YOU GUYS HEAD ON HOME
LEAVE GUREN-KUN TO ME!
I'M...

NO.
I DON'T WANT TO GO! WHY...
HUH?
WH— D-DON'T BE SELFISH
THAT'S TRUE,
BUT...
BUT...
I...
I TOLD YOU, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

I SAID THAT YOU'RE MY FRIEND, DIDN'T I?!
I...

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 04

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: nanchakachan
Proofreader: Love
Editor: sushiyisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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Cube.5 Wish

SFX: stop
ピタッ
……
YOU SEEM RATHER TENSE, EH,
HIIRO?
FOLLOW ME.
YOU THINK SO?

FRIEND?

?

I
I AM...

YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING.

MIO-KUN, AREN'T YOU ..
RIA-CHAN?
SCARED?
NO, I'M NOT SCARED
!!!

?
STRETCHES OUT
MAKE SURE..
YOU DON'T LET GO.
.....
OK.
?

SURPRISINGLY, I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE BOX
I PROBABLY JUST WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT
"I'M NOT SCARED" -?
I SAID THAT ON IMPULSE BUT
WHAT DID SHE MEAN WHEN SHE ASKED ME IF I WASN'T SCARED?
SCRAPE...

!
blink
:
RELEASE
?!
?
E—
EH?

S-
SORRY.
.....
UMM... YOU SEE, MIO-KUN,
I...
I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO DOESN'T GET AFFECTED BY THE CUBE.
chop
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IT'S NOT ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WHY DID YOU THINK I WAS HOLDING YOUR HAND?
SHE SCOLDED ME.
HUH?
?
YOU SEE...
I THINK YOU'RE PROBABLY SAFE IF YOU STAY RIGHT BY ME.
YOU WON'T BE... KILLED BY THE CUBE.

.....

SO IS THAT WHY SHE SAID "ONLY I CAN DO IT" ?
.....

I'M SORRY I WASN'T NOT LIKING IT!
SO, DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN PLEASE RETURN TO THE APARTMENT.
Are... are you angry?
STRICT!

I SEE
BUT, SOMETHING IS STILL NOT MAKING SENSE
DEFINITELY. IF I THINK ABOUT IT THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE.
IN ORDER TO DESTROY SOMETHING AS ABSURD AS THE BOX, ONE NEEDS TO BE UNAFFECTED BY IT'S POWER.

SWORD
glance
?
WHAT?
IT'S... IT'S HIM!
SO YOU GET ALONG WELL.
!

YOU'RE WRONG...
!
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME WITH YOUR SWORD?

!!!
IT'S DEFINITELY MORE LIKE YOU TO BE COOL LIKE THAT.
smile
YEP.
ARE YOU...
.....
ACTUALLY HIIRO, INSTEAD?
I was wondering where he'd gone
OOPS.

BUSTED.
OH, WELL.
RIA-SAN NOTICED THAT IT WAS ME INSTANTLY,
WHICH IS RATHER FUNNY BECAUSE YOU USUALLY DON'T!

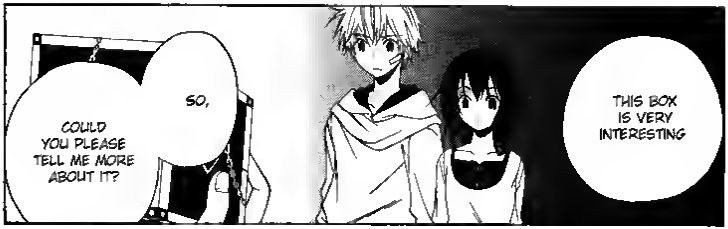
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING THE BOX.
SO YOU CANNOT BE GUREN-KUN.

Hmph.
RIA-CHAN.
HE IS CALLING FOR YOU, RIA-SAN.
THE WAY SHE SAYS IT IS KIND OF CRUEL
.....

GUREN-KUN,...
IS HE STILL OK?
?
THIS WAY.
AFTER HIM, RIA-CHAN!
...OK.
Squeeze
.....

THREE MORE CHAINS LEFT... WHICH MEANS THREE MORE TIMES.
SO DOES THAT MEAN WHEN THEY ALL BREAK,
I WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN THE BOX?
YOU SHOULDN'T OPEN IT,
GUREN-KUN.
YOU'RE LATE, HIIRO
Give me my glasses back
They really do look alike
HEH

.....
WHAT IS THE WISH THAT YOU WANT GRANTED?
GUREN-KUN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THE BOX?
?
WELL...
NOTHING REALLY
ACTUALLY,
I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT'S INTERESTING
.....


THIS BOX IS VERY INTERESTING
SO, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT?

.....
IF YOU LET YOURSELF BE FOOLED AROUND WITH BY THE BOX,
NOTHING INTERESTING IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

YOU SURE SAY DULL THINGS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT...
THAT'S BECAUSE THAT IS HOW I AM.

SFX: CLANG
IS NO FUN.
.....
AND THAT'S WHY...
I WILL DESTROY IT.
THAT...

*Oniisan is normally used to refer to older brother or brotherly figures.

WHO ARE YOU?
I'VE ASKED YOU ABOUT IT EARLIER....
clang
?
BUT...
IT'S NOT JUST MY FEELINGS.
NO, ACTUALLY,
THE BOX IS POWERLESS AGAINST YOU.
LIKE, TO HURT OR TO KILL YOU.
IT'S MORE LIKE THAT BOX IS SUBCONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO AVOID YOU.
IT'S LIKE THE BOX IS MADE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT DOESN'T WANT TO HARM YOU.

IT IS AS IF IT'S TRYING TO PROTECT YOU
THE BOX IS ACTUALLY BOUNDED BY THESE RESTRAINTS
NO...
AM I WRONG?
THE BOX...
YOU SHOULD NEVER OPEN IT.
YOU WILL DIE.
?

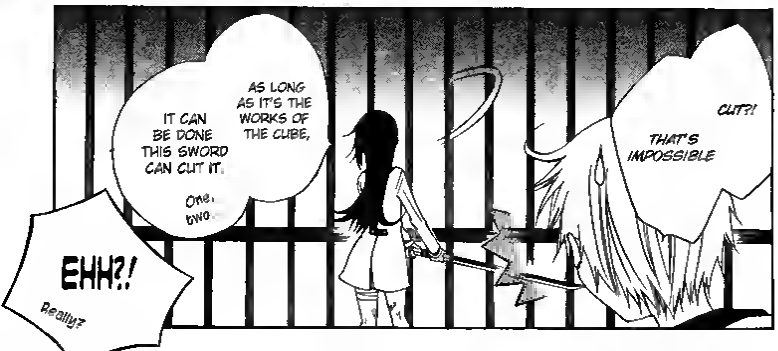
I DON'T WANT TO...
"Aren't you scared?"
KILL ANYONE...
ANYMORE!!
THE CUBE WILL NEVER KILL ME.
IF IT DID, THE CUBE ITSELF WILL DISAPPEAR.
IT'S BECAUSE I EXIST, THE CUBE EXISTS, TOO.

RIA-CHAN??
.....
SOME-THING'S TELLING ME NOT TO LET GO OF HER HAND.
HAND...
.....
Squeeze...
!
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT IT'S GETTING MORE AND MORE INTRIGUING

ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE
MIO-KUN,
grip
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO STAY DOWN.
?

annoyed ooo
.....
YOU...

I'LL CUT IT.


AS LONG AS IT'S THE WORKS OF THE CUBE,
IT CAN BE DONE THIS SWORD CAN CUT IT.
One, two.
CUT?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
EHH?!
Really?

!
THAT IS A WASTE OF POWER.
THWACK
CLANG
clonk
clank
SO THAT'S WHY SHE WAS SO CALM
Wow
?
MIO-KUN?!
CRUMBLE
SLAP!
OHH!!!
?!

YANK!
YOU SAID...
"ANYTHING'S FINE AS LONG AS IT'S INTERESTING," DIDN'T YOU?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT SOMETHING INTERESTING TO HAPPEN?!

"What you really want?"
Huh
THIS ISN'T FUNNY.
THEN WHAT ABOUT ME?
MIO-KUN!
GET THE BOX AWAY FROM GUREN-KUN!
WHOOSH!
!
DROP
ME

"You will die."
"You must not open the box."
"had been opened" ONCE
IT...
THAT MEANS...
"kill anyone, anymore!"
"I don't want to
"Two years ago"...?
WANT TO FIND OUT.
I...

WHAT?!
MIO-KUN?!
Rustle...
?!
Whoosh
WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS?
tall
?

HEY! GUREN?!
UGH...
HEY, YOU LOOK AWFUL.
?!
ARE YOU INSIDE?
MIO-KUN?
IT'S MINE
THE BOX....
...!

!
SFX: BLOCK
ガッ

I WON'T LET YOU GO TO THE BOX.
YOU CAN'T.

fwoosh
OUT OF MY WAY!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
.....

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
?!
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE BOX...
clang
CLICK
WHAT?
IS IT BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO LET GO OF THE BOX?
HE LOOKS REALLY AWFUL. HE ALSO LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY SUFFERING.
GUREN-KUN?!
UGH...
FLOP

I HAVE TO DESTROY THE BOX FAST!
TCH
BUT, I HAVE TO STOP EUREN-KUN FIRST
BESIDES, WHAT ABOUT MIO-KUN AND THE BOX?
.....
?!
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
.....?
SFX: SQUEEZE

PUZZLE+1 おわり

Afterword

Thank you for reading this amateur piece of work thus far.

...I'm kind of stiff, aren't I? I'm actually nervous. (Laugh)

- My editor whom I've always relied upon.
- Everyone who has helped me throughout the publishing of this first volume.
- You, who have kindly taken this book in your hands.

I'm very grateful to every one of you.

I'm drawing this manga with the plan of ending it in the next volume.
I would be glad if you would read it till the end.

I pray that we will meet again. Until then.

- Sugano Manami

Younger of the twins
Fourteen years old
Wears glasses
Ryuusaki Guren
Uraidaki Ria
The heroine
Her uniform looks tattered (..)
Afterword
Thank you for reading from cover to cover
Actually there were only these four --> in the apartment in the beginning
202
201
Older of the twins
Fourteen years old
Likes girls
Ryuusaki Haro
The box wasn't in the picture either
Sasanami Mio
Protagonist
Somehow he's always wearing a muffler
Mitsuki Suzune
It's fun to dress her up
This is my first time drawing a serial manga
Despite all the hardships I'm trying to do my best
I'll do my best till the very end
This story will end in the second volume
I'd be glad if we can meet again
Sugano Manami
Kirie
Sisterly character who dotes on Ria
Adults are difficult to draw
203
Mugetsu
He's always wearing a white coat
Fuyuki Rui
The caretaker
Unknown age
(Pointless setting)

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VOL CHAPTER 05

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
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MANAMI SUGANO

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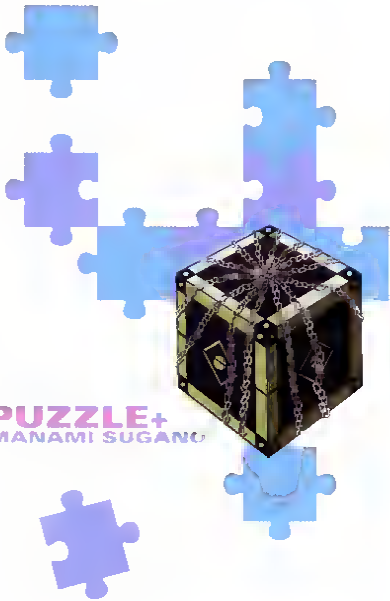
MANAMI SUGANO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